United Nations S/2000/1229

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 21 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 December 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-fly zones. During the period from 11 to 17 December 2000, these aircraft carried out 194 aggressive sorties, 78 of them from Saudi Arabia, 66 from Kuwait and 50 from Turkey.

The Minister reiterates the Iraqi Government's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and holds the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, internationally responsible for these acts of aggression. He urges you to assume your responsibilities pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and halt this unwarranted aggression and ensure that it is not repeated.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. In the period from 11 to 17 December 2000, these aircraft carried out 194 sorties, 78 of them from Saudi Arabia, 66 from Kuwait and 50 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 50 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 11 December 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Irbil, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1045 hours on 12 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Zakho, Irbil, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1118 hours on 15 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Irbil, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 144 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1020 hours on 12 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Lasaf, Salman, Najaf and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1055 hours on 13 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory

penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basra, Lasaf, Jalibah, Qurnah, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Salman and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0955 on 14 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Qurnah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Ushbayjah, Salman, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Basra, Najaf, Ukhaydir, Taqtaqanah, Hayy, Kut, Busayyah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, and Mashkhab areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1220 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1045 hours on 15 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah, Hayy, Amarah, Shinafiyah, Basra and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0855 hours on 16 December 2000 United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 6 missions from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Busayyah, Artawi, Basra and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1000 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0955 hours on 17 December 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Nukhayb, Rumaythah, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that

has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-fly zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-fly zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law, including for the payment of full compensation for the human and material losses and damage sustained as a result of these unlawful practices.

The Government of Iraq renews its call to the States involved in the aggression to halt these acts forthwith, since they are unsupported by international law, violate the sovereignty of Iraq and pose a grave threat to that country's security and peace, in addition to representing a direct and serious menace to international peace and security.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, urges you to intervene with the Governments of the States concerned and prevail upon them to halt their continual and unjustified aggression against an independent sovereign State. There must be no further repetitions of such aggression.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq